

OCULAR PROSTHESES AND FACIAL RESTORATIONS

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook updates Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) procedures for providing ocular prostheses and facial restorations to veteran beneficiaries.
- 2. SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** This Handbook is an update of current procedures.
- 3. RELATED ISSUES:** VHA Directive 1173, and VHA Handbooks 1173.1 through 1173.15.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The Chief Consultant, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service Strategic Healthcare Group (113), is responsible for the contents of this VHA Handbook. Questions may be referred to 202-273-8515.
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** VHA Manual M-2, Part IX, Chapter 13 is rescinded.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This document is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of July 2005.

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OCULAR PROSTHESES AND FACIAL RESTORATIONS

1. PURPOSE

This Veterans Health Administration Handbook establishes uniform and consistent system-wide procedures in providing ocular prostheses and facial restorations to veteran beneficiaries.

2. SCOPE

a. The losses of an eye, ear, nose, cheek, hand, foot, are examples of items replaced with removable custom fabricated prostheses at the Restoration Clinics. Composed of plastic and/or silicone, maintained by the beneficiary or guardian, the prostheses are made to last from one to three years. The plastic eye prostheses are made to last 3 to 5 years; however, some persons are able to wear them for a period of 10 years. Patients should have their ocular prosthesis replaced at least every 5 years. Longer wear increases the risk of giant papillary conjunctivitis which is very difficult to treat.

b. Ocular prostheses, facial restorations, implants, ear inserts and repairs shall be custom fabricated or procured and issued to eligible beneficiaries, when prescribed by a physician and obtained via a VA Form 10-2529-3 (ADP), Request and Receipt for Prosthetic Appliances or Services, or VA Form 10-2421 (ADP), Prosthetic Authorization for Items and Services.

c. All prostheses are custom fabricated and will be delivered in person to the veteran after a final fitting. The mailing of items should be limited to the provision of a spare eye for those persons who are unable to travel because of medical reasons, provided there is little chance of any complications.

3. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Anaplastologist.** One who restores injured, deformed, or missing anatomical human parts.
- b. **Anophthalmic.** Absence of the eyeball.
- c. **Auricular Prosthesis.** Relating to the artificial replacement of the organs of hearing.
- d. **Bulbar.** Refers to or related to the eyeball
- e. **Cosmetic Scleral Shell.** An intricate and complex, acrylic thin eye prosthesis designed to fit over a physical eye or evisceration with or without a cornea. It replaces volume and reduces possible infections of the eye socket.
- f. **Ear Insert.** Plastic device from an impression of the patient's ear for use with an ear mold in order to make a hearing aid.
- g. **Enucleation.** Complete surgical removal of the eyeball.

- h. **Evisceration.** Surgical removal of the contents of the eyeball with retention of the sclera or cornea and sclera.
- i. **Exenteration.** Surgical removal of all the eyeball contents which may include the removal of the eyelids.
- j. **Eye Implants.** A device that is surgically connected to the eye muscles and is used as volume replacement of the eye.
- k. **Implant.** A custom fitted prosthesis made of medical grade silicone, acrylic, or metal used as volume replacement and insert for areas of the body.
- l. **Impressions.** Duplication of defected areas of the body by use of alginate (seaweed) or silicone base materials. It gives the provider a negative mold which is used to create a positive cast. The positive cast is modified to form the final prosthesis.
- m. **Maxillofacial Prosthesis.** Replacement of anatomical structures of the face and oral cavity which integrates function and replaces the natural appearance. They are custom fitted and normally fabricated with silicone.
- n. **Ocularist.** One who fits and fabricates custom ocular prostheses.
- o. **Ocular Prosthesis.** A plastic or glass fabricated eye that replaces volume of the enucleated eye socket and gives the appearance of the natural eye.
 - (1) **OS Prosthesis.** Ocular Sinister (left eye)
 - (2) **OD Prosthesis.** Ocular Dexter (right eye)
- p. **Orbital Prosthesis.** An artificial silicone replacement of the facial bony cavity that contains the eye and its associated parts, i.e., eyelid, eyebrow, etc.
- q. **Phthisical.** Wasted away, shrunken eyeball.
- r. **Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA).** Plastic used in the manufacture of artificial eyes, contact lenses, implants, inserts, etc.
- s. **Silicone.** Polydimethylsiloxane is a rubber material used for the fabrication of facial prostheses, hands, and feet.

4. PROCEDURES FOR FURNISHING APPLIANCES

- a. **VA Restoration Clinics**

- (1) VA Restoration Clinics will be used as the primary source for restorative items whenever the patient is able to travel and the distance to be traveled is not excessive.

(2) Patients requiring ocular prostheses, orbital prosthesis, implants, facial and body restorations, cosmetic gloves for partial hand amputations, prostheses, etc., may be referred by any VA facility to the nearest VA Restoration Clinic.

(a) Cosmetic gloves for partial or complete hand amputees may be fabricated by a Restoration Clinic if commercially available sources are not adequate. Such prostheses will be made available to any veteran upon receipt of a VA Form 10-2529-3 (ADP), from the referring facility.

(b) Functional prosthetic devices for use by partial or complete hand amputees requiring an opposition post or other modification, will be fabricated by an Orthotic Laboratory prior to requesting a cosmetic glove. The cast of the patient's hand and the device fabricated will be forwarded to the selected procurement source for the glove whenever an initial cosmetic glove is requested.

(3) When a prosthesis or repair is authorized, use the following instructions:

(a) VA Form 10-2529-3 will be prepared electronically and forwarded by the most expeditious means to the clinic selected with a VA Form 10-10, Application for Medical Benefits, and a HINQ (Eligibility Verification Form).

(b) A separate VA Form 10-2529-3 (ADP) will be prepared for each beneficiary for the prosthesis is to be fabricated or repaired. Two or more items for a beneficiary may be included on a single request form.

(c) The referring facility will retain a VA Form 10-2529-3 (ADP) in suspense by the preparing office pending delivery of the prosthesis.

(d) Field facilities requiring the services of a Restoration Clinic located at another facility should schedule and obtain confirmation of an appointment prior to referring beneficiaries or sending a VA Form 10-2529-3 (ADP) to the clinic.

(4) Upon receipt of a VA Form 10-2529-3 (ADP) authorizing a prosthesis or repair at a VA Restoration Clinic, the receiving facility will place the request in suspense and submit a local VA Form 10-2529-3 (ADP) with the order to the Restoration Clinic.